

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10 are amended, and claims 4, 8 and 9 are cancelled.

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 2-4 and 6-8 because of informalities and rejected claims 1-10 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art and Enoki, et al., U.S. 5,873,085. The amendments to the claims correct the informalities and the claims are now in proper form.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended to bring out the feature of producing a pattern file use frequency count table and storing pattern files in the executive memory in the order in which pattern files are most frequently used. When memory capacity is insufficient for transferring a new pattern file, the pattern file having the smallest use frequency is deleted from the executive memory and the new file is transferred to the space left in the executive memory.

The Enoki reference discloses a virtual file management system comprising a plurality of server computers, constructed with a plurality of servers and a plurality of terminals that share file services provided by said servers. The management system uses a use frequency table 3106 and recognizes a file to which file access requests are concentrated and the file is divided and transferred to other computers in order for diversified operations by the many server computers.

The admitted prior art does not at all address the feature of producing a frequency of use table.

It is clear that neither Enoki nor the admitted prior art or the combination thereof produces a pattern file use frequency count table and pattern files that are stored in the executive memory in the order in which pattern files are most frequently used. When a memory capacity is insufficient for transferring a new pattern file, the pattern file having the smallest use frequency is deleted from the executive memory and the new file is transferred to the space left in the executive memory.

The present invention produces an advantageous effect in that the transfer time for transferring a pattern file to the semiconductor devices can be greatly reduced by

storing the pattern file based on the use frequency count table and there is a substantial reduction of the transfer time of test patterns to test semiconductor devices. This greatly improves the throughput for testing semiconductor devices.

Since the Enoki reference and the admitted prior art do not teach or suggest the above-described novel features of the present invention, the novel present invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art references.

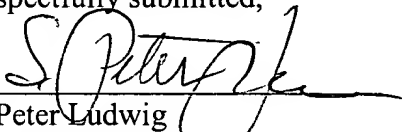
Therefore, each of the independent claims 1, 5 and 10 defines novel and advantageous subject matter and should be allowed. The dependent claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 set forth further features that add to the novelty of the respective parent claims and also should be allowable.

Therefore, these claims also are patentable and should be allowed.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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